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## **Thailand**

### **Grain and Feed**

### **Weekly Rice Price Update**

## **2003**

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#### **Report Highlights:**

Export prices changed slightly as market was quiet.

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Includes PSD changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
Bangkok [TH1], TH

**Indicative Price (Week Ending May 12):**

| Thailand: Export (FOB) Prices for various grades of rice (USD/M.T.) |                       |     |     |     |     |     |     |             |      |
|---|-----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------|------|
|   | Exporter Observations |     |     |     |     |     |     | Period Avg. |      |
|   | #1                    | #2  | #3  | #4  | #5  | #6  | #7  | CUR.        | PRV. |
| F WR 100 B  | 470                   | 460 | 514 | 483 | 490 | 480 | 485 | 475         | 481  |
| WR 100 B  | 203                   | 203 | 204 | 203 | 202 | 200 | 198 | 202         | 201  |
| PB 5%   | 188                   | 195 | 195 | 194 | 188 | 194 | 188 | 192         | 191  |
| WR 5%   | 196                   | 198 | 199 | 196 | 195 | 194 | 193 | 195         | 196  |
| WR 10%  | 191                   | 193 | 197 | 194 | 190 | 191 | 188 | 192         | 192  |
| WR 15%  | 188                   | 188 | 193 | 187 | 187 | 188 | 183 | 188         | 187  |
| WR 25%  | 178                   | 181 | 188 | 179 | 178 | 172 | 178 | 179         | 179  |
| WR 35%  | 173                   | 176 | 186 | 176 | 172 | 169 | 173 | 175         | 175  |
| A 1 SUP   | 142                   | 146 | 144 | 143 | 145 | 143 | 140 | 143         | 143  |
| A 1 SPEC  | 141                   | 144 | 143 | 142 | 142 | NQ  | 139 | 142         | 141  |
|   |                       |     |     |     |     |     |     |             |      |
| Source: Average actual prices received from exporters               |                       |     |     |     |     |     |     |             |      |

**Market Tone**

Export prices for most grades of rice changed slightly as market was quiet and Thai Baht remained strong at 42.37 baht/U.S. dollar, as of May 12, 2003. According to rice exports to Nigeria, Thai authority will likely file a petition against WTO on a discriminatory action of Nigerian government on import duty valuation of Thai parboiled rice. At present, Nigerian importers are subject to a tariff rate of 118 % for rice imports, but Thai parboiled rice is valued at \$230 /ton, compared with \$205 /ton for Indian rices. However, Thai delegates are currently negotiating with Nigerian government and plan to promote Thai rice in African countries by the end of this month. African countries are Thailand's largest rice importers. In CY 2002, Thai rice exports to African countries totaled 2.9 million tons, of which 1.4 million tons were parboiled rice. Nigeria was the largest African importer of Thai rice, amounting to 967,596 tons in CY 2002, most of which were parboiled rice. Senegal which was the second largest importers imported 777,632 tons, of which 236,368 tons were fragrant rice and 445,408 tons were white rice. Also, Ivory Coast and South Africa were major importers of Thai rice, amounting to 343,492 tons and 317,198 tons, respectively. South Africa was a major market for parboiled rice. Meanwhile, Ivory coast was a market for fragrant rice.

**The following are reported rice exports (as is basis):**

| WEEK<br>ENDING | QUANTITY | 4-WK AVG | YEAR TO<br>DATE | YEAR AGO |
|----------------|----------|----------|-----------------|----------|
|                | (MT)     | (MT)     | (TMT)           | (TMT)    |
| APR 6          | 98,474   | 80,639   | 1,078           | 1,874    |
| APR 13         | 70,447   | 80,181   | 1,148           | 1,957    |
| APR 20         | 43,896   | 71,884   | 1,192           | 2,053    |
| APR 27         | 124,576  | 84,348   | 1,317           | 2,194    |
| MAY 4          | 86,059   | 81,244   | 1,403           | 2,318    |
| MAY 11         | 50,278   | 76,202   | 1,453           | 2,439    |

Note on data: Export figures since March 22, 2002 do not include fragrant rice. The authority to report fragrant rice exports was moved from the Thai Board of Trade to the Ministry of Commerce's Office of Commodity Standards, which does not release official fragrant rice export data. FAS/BKK will report only official export numbers from the Board of Trade for non-fragrant and from the Office of Commodity Standards for fragrant rice when available, but the reader should bear in mind the difference between the data.

Unofficial exports for May 5-11, 2003, totaled 50,278 tons, down 35,781 tons from the previous week's total and down 25,924 tons from the four week moving average of 76,202 tons. The sharp contraction of weekly sales to 50,278 could be linked to fewer trading days as there were 2 official holidays during the week. Exports during Jan 1- May 11, 2003, totaled 1,453 thousand tons, compared with 2,439 thousand tons (including fragrant rice) during the same period in 2002.

According to the Department of Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce, total rice exports (including fragrant rice) during Jan1 - Apr 30, 2003 amounted to 2,134,490 tons, down 5.2 percent from 2,250,929 tons during the same period in 2002.

**Weekly Rice Sales**

Private registered rice export sales for the period of Apr 21-25, Apr 28 - May 2, (Revised) and May 5-9, 2003 are as follows:

| Movement (MT)      | Apr 21-25 | Apr 28 - May 2 | May 5-9   |
|--------------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|
|                    |           |                |           |
| weekly sales       | 146,000   | 61,213         | 90,425    |
| 4 week sum         | 446,603   | 366,329        | 347,407   |
| 4 week mov avg.    | 111,651   | 91,582         | 86,852    |
| Total weekly sales | 1,506,254 | 1,567,467      | 1,657,892 |